The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor concerning in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Write Your Senators And Congressmen to Repeal T-H Law

Vigorous Action Urged to Avoid Slump; Stable Prices, Higher Wages Held Vital

Forest Park, Pa.—Unless business and government take immediate and vigorous action to halt the softening trend in the nation's economy, the United States will be headed for another major depression, Leon H. Keyserling, vice chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisors, warned here.

Mr. Keyserling addressed delegates to a 2-day conference held by the Northeast Department of the AFL's International Ladies Garment Workers Union.

Business should take the initiative in putting the United States back on the road to national prosperity, Mr. Keyserling said, by stabilizing prices and increasing wages. While that might cut into the high profits enjoyed by business in 1948, it would redound to their benefit in the long run, he asserted.

Prices had not come down far enough for labor to forego demands for a further wage rise, Mr. Keyserling declared, and he urged labor unions to hold firmly when they meet with management in collective-bargaining negotiations.

Mr. Keyserling said that "now is the cheapest and most prudent time" for business to embark on a dynamic program of expanding distribution to take up the slack in our economy that had been developing steadily in recent months. The government, too, should be encouraged to stimulate economic growth, which could be achieved by its program of bolstering our educational system, social security, health services, public housing and public power, Mr. Keyserling added.

He termed it "upside-down" economy to cut government spending now and predicted that such a policy would result in a further spiraling of the present mild down trend.

Insisting that decisions on national policy were not made by the government but by private enterprise, Mr. Keyserling predicted that "if we are to have a boom or bust" would be settled largely by which of two competing philosophies would prevail.

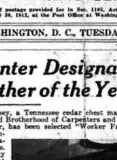
"One school of thought rigidly believed that after high employment and high production a down trend was normal and levels of production and employment must be cut, he asserted. There was no reason why we must have 7 lean years after 7 fat years, the economist said, and called it "the worst policy that could be followed."

The other philosophy, adoption of a liberal national economic policy would minimize the adjustment now to the coming 2nd War economy and it still was not too late to take the affirmative step and put us back on the road to national growth, he said.

Mr. Keyserling urged that in the future the banker-businessman should not be shifted to the wage earner because "he clearly cannot bear it." Purchasing power will drop and create a vicious circle in which our whole economy will recede."

AFL Carpenter Designated 'Worker Father of the Year'

New York.—McKinley Ramsey, a Tennessee cedar chest maker and a member of Local 81442, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and American Federation of Labor, has been selected "Worker Father of the Year," according to an announcement made by the National Father's Day Committee.


McKINLEY RAMSEY

Mr. Ramsey left his home city of Chattanooga, Tenn., the night of June 12 to spend a week in New York City as guest of the committee.

In making their selection of the "Worker Father," the committee pointed out that Mr. Ramsey is typical of the millions of working men throughout the nation who labor in the smaller industries. Mr. Ramsey, a cabinet maker since 1913, has been making cedar chests at the Lane Valley Corporation.

He served 14 months overseas in the 81st Division in World War I. Even with this exception, has continually plied his trade in the furniture industry.

Mr. Ramsey is the father of four. Two sons, both of whom saw service in the War, still reside in Chattanooga. One is an accountant and the other a graduates from college this year and is serving as an assistant to a Methodist minister.

Two daughters also are in the Ramsey family. One is married and is the mother of a 3-month-old daughter, and the other is a high school junior.

Mr. Ramsey has been in the furniture field all his life, though he still likes to dabble in farming and trains his own hunting dogs.

While in New York, Mr. Ramsey will make a few personal appearances as well as make public appearances at City Hall, and sports events.

It will mark his first visit to New York since the day he was mustered out of the army on his way home from France in 1919.

Economic Council Denies Sharp Rift

Washington.—The President's Council of Economic Advisers in a newspaper storm centering a lack of agreement in the council and among its staff and that the council had no faith in the economic forecasts prepared by the Bureau of the Census.

A statement issued by the council declared that there was a "remarkable degree" of agreement throughout the service "as to the present economic situation and the prudent and constructive course in dealing with it."

The statement said that "neither the council nor its staff has challenged either the accuracy or the adequacy of the unemployment figures of the Bureau of the Census," and that "these unemployment figures are prepared with great care and the highest technical competence."

"We regret also," the statement declared, "that press dispatches being made to create the impression of sharp differences between the analyses and recommendations furnished to the council by the council staff and the reports made and positions taken by the council. There are bound to be differences of interpretation and emphasis among economists, even the most competent. But there is a remarkable degree of consensus among the staff, among the council members, and between the council and staff as to the present economic situation and the prudent and constructive course in dealing with it."

Green Urges Return to Free Bargaining; Assails Supporters of Taft-Hartley Law

Los Angeles.—AFL President William Green expressed cautious optimism that the Congressional debate on nation labor policy will "be resolved in a positive fashion and will declared that there was a "remarkable degree" of agreement throughout the service "as to the present economic situation and the prudent and constructive course in dealing with it."

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Trustees Named For Ruhr Steel

Frankfurt, Germany.—Twelve Germans were named to serve as trustees of the giant Ruhr steel industry by the American and British Military Governments.

The trustees will serve as interim holders of the properties which the German companies are formed to control. Although they will be nominally will hold certificates of ownership, they are forbidden from selling any stocks or declaring dividends.

The names were announced as: Karl Hermann Flick, Gerhard Neiberich Diskelbach, Dr. Gotthard Frederick Harders, Dr. Günther Hugo, Dr. Herbert Mandera, Erich Heinrich Dinkelbach, Dr. Gotthard Heinrich

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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

SUPPLEMENT

WILLIAM GREEN, *President* — WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, JUNE 17, 1949 — GEORGE MEANY, *Secretary-Treasurer*

Write Your Senators And Congressmen to Repeal T-H Law

BENEFITS THROUGH NON-ASSOCIATION

ILO Committee Rejects Employer Move To Weaken Treaty on Right to Organize

Geneva.—AFL representatives attending the 32nd general conference of the International Labor Organization sparked a drive which prevented employer delegates from restricting and limiting a proposed treaty on the rights of workers to organize and bargain collectively.

Employer members on the industrial relations committee, which is drafting the proposed treaty for submission to a plenary session of the conference, sought to amend it by inserting a clause declaring that workers should have the right to refuse to belong to a union.

The tri-partite membership of the committee, composed of workers, employer, and government delegates, rejected the proposed amendment on 2 separate occasions by votes of 128 to 66 and 113 to 78 after George Meany, AFL secretary-treasurer, and other speakers voiced vigorous objections.

They asserted that the workers' right not to belong to a union was understood and did not need to be written into the treaty.

Joining in opposition to the proposal was Jules N. Katz, associate solicitor of the U. S. Department of Labor and adviser to the U. S. Government delegates, who declared it would ban union security clauses and the closed shop which he termed "legitimate objectives of labor."

Katz declared that even the Taft-Hartley law which he said was a "legislative error of major proportions," did not go so far as the amendment proposed by the employer delegates.

Defeat of the amendment left the first clause of the proposed treaty reading: "Workers shall enjoy adequate protection against acts of anti-union discrimination in the exercise of their employment."

The committee accepted another amendment offered by employers which establishes the right of employers as well as workers to be protected from mutual interference in the establishment, functioning and administration of employers' organizations.

In another action at the conference, George P. Delaney, the AFL's international representative and U. S. workers' delegate to the ILO, was confirmed to the post of workers' representative on the ILO's governing body. He had been elected provisionally in June, 1948. In November 1948, Delaney was also elected vice chairman of the workers' group attending the present conference.

Fifty of the ILO's 61 member nations from 5 continents sent 180 delegates and 350 technical advisers to the conference here. In addition, representatives from official and nongovernmental international organizations are in attendance.

At the opening session, Sir Guildhaume Myrddin-Evans, former secretary of the British Ministry of Labor and National Service, who was elected president of the conference, declared that in respects the ILO "holds the key to the future for all of us."

Commenting on aspects of the ILO's 31-year history, he said the recent emergence of the organization into the international field was of the greatest possible significance."

He declared that the world had universal freedom was an objective for the ILO and asserted that only in the all-powerful state we are confronted with the total extinction of the liberty of the individual as we have known it.

Whatever advances are made in the field of social welfare, he said, the work of the ILO would not be ended "until every man and woman, of men and women everywhere, until men are free to what they think without fear of being thrown into prison, until there is no more oppression and no more

Tobin Says Staggering Sickness Toll Proves Need For Health Insurance Bill

Washington. — Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin urged Congress to approve President Truman's national health program as a means of relieving the appalling toll exacted from workers because of illness.

Testifying before a House committee in support of the measure, Mr. Tobin declared that the nation cannot longer afford to waste its manpower resources through ill health.

"The health and vitality of our people, particularly in the light of present world conditions," he said, "demand prompt adoption of an effective program of national health insurance."

"The impact of ill health on American production is frightening in its implications," he said. Losses from strikes amount to only a small fraction of the huge damage caused by sickness and injury, he disclosed.

In the crucial war year of 1942, when manpower on the job was urgently needed, "illness of one kind or another cost American industry 4,- 000,000,000 work days," Tobin declared.

"This unbelievable total was equal to the loss of a full year's working time of 13,000,000 people—more manpower force considerably greater than the total strength of our armed forces at that time," Tobin pointed out.

"Of these lost work-days," he said, "600,000,000 were due to absenteeism, caused by illness or accident, a billion to permanent disability, 2 billion and a half to premature death, and another billion to the reduced efficiency of persons who remained on the job although actually too sick to work."

Year after year the toll is similar, Tobin asserted. "It has been estimated that on any given working day," he said, "over 7,000,000 people in the United States are so disabled by sickness or injury that they cannot go about their ordinary business and that of this number, about half have been disabled for 6 months or more."

Figures such as these, the cabinet official contended, show the urgent necessity of enacting the administration's health program, including compulsory insurance for payment of medical bills and expansion of medical and hospital facilities.

Meantime, another important development in the struggle over health insurance came out of Atlantic City where the 98th session of the convention of the American Medical Association—the "Doctors' Trust."

For the first time, the AMA's governing body—a house of delegates—gave a grudging "okay" to voluntary plans for payment of medical costs, sponsored by unions, consumers' groups or other "lay" organizations.

Hitherto, the AMA had bitterly fought such plans. It insisted that if they were to be set up, they had to be controlled by medical societies—as in 22 states the "Doctors' Trust" got through laws which prohibited establishment of any plans by the lay public without the approval of the "doctors' unions."

Under the new action, the AMA notified local and state medical societies that such plans can be given official 'approval if they meet 20 "principles" laid down by the house of delegates.

German Union Formed; Includes Units in 3 Zones

By ADRIENNE TASSLER
European Correspondent for the AFL News Service

Frankfort, Germany.—Henry Ruts, the AFL's special European representative, participated in the founding of a union of workers representing the 3 western zones of Germany—held recently at Koenigswinter on the Rhine.

Ruts, who represented the American Federation of Labor as a fraternal delegate, declared in an address:

"When the first delegation of European trade union leaders visited Germany under the auspices of the American Federation of Trade Unions after the war, they advised the 4 military governments to go slow in permitting trade union activities on local levels.

"In contrast to the WFTU policies," he pointed out, "The American Federation of Labor as early as 1945 insisted that a new Germany would have to reestablish its free trade unions as the first step in the reorganization of the country was to succeed.

"Consequently, the AFL insisted on the U. S. government writing into the military government regulations the provision that among the first organizations to be permitted in Germany would be those dedicated to the organization of a new German trade union movement."

Ruts warned the delegates not to be sympathetic to the Soviet suggestions of developments at the foreign ministers' conference in Paris, declaring that Russia has frequently failed to live up to its international contracts.

The Koenigswinter convention led to the formation of a Western German Woodworkers Union with 180,000 members. Markus Schleicher, known to AFL delegates who met him at previous conventions, was the spokesman for the German delegation, was elected president of the newly-formed union.

Builders Started 95,000 Homes in May; Permits For Construction on Uptrend

Washington.—Homebuilders in the entire nation started 95,000 new permanent nonfarm dwellings during May, Secretary of Labor Tobin announced in releasing the Bureau of Labor Statistics' May figures on housing starts.

This is 9,000 more than were put under construction in April and is within 5 percent of the record 100,- 300 units put under construction in May 1946," Mr. Tobin said.

Preliminary estimates show that builders have started 425,400 new dwelling units in the first 5 months of 1949. Although housing starts in 1949 have dropped as compared with last year, the gap between production in 1948 and 1949 is lessening as the 1949 building season progresses.

Last year, the number of local building permits issued for new housing reached a peak in April, with the actual start of construction reaching an all-time monthly peak in May.

This year, building permits for planned new housing were still on the increase in May. Thus, the drop in housing starts will probably occur later this year than last.

Complete reports of housing starts and building permits for the year bracket the figure for that month to 50,400, a 6% rise over April, Commerce Department estimates. Mr. Tobin added that additional building reports now indicate that the final March figure will also be considerably above the preliminary estimate.

May expenditures for all new construction rose 15 percent from April and 2% above May 1948. Almost half this increase occurred in expenditures for new private residential construction. Contract construction employment rose at the same time by 72,000 to 2,010,000. The department pointed out that both expenditures and employment may be expected to rise as construction activity usually reaches its seasonal peak in the summer.

FARM INCOME DOWN 10%, SAYS AGRICULTURE DEPT.

Washington.—The net income of American farmers in the first half of 1949 is probably running at 10 percent below the same period last year, the Department of Agriculture reported.

Cash receipts from farm operations and probably the gross income of farmers, will be down only about 5 percent. The department estimated, however, that farmers' production expenses had not fallen as fast as their income and consequently they would leave them less profit. It said the cost of items the farmers had to buy was down only about 3 percent.

The report by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics estimated the farmers, are receiving about $11,- 900,000,000 from marketings this year, compared with $12,800,000,000 in the first six months of 1948. Farmers sold more than they did in the first 6 months of 1948, but prices were down about 10 percent.

Prices farmers received were estimated at around $7,400,000,000, 16 percent than in the first half of 1948, and crop receipts were estimated at $1,500,000,000, 7 percent more than in 1948.

CALIFORNIA AFL UNIONS SECURE NEW WAGE GAINS

San Francisco.—AFL unions in California won wage gains of 5 cents an hour in most of the contracts negotiated during May, according to a report in the Weekly News Letter published by the California State Federation of Labor.

Settlements were somewhat lower in at least one major agreement which obtained the over-all average increase per worker to about 4½ cents during 25,500 workers included under the contracts, the report said.

AFL Union Officials Give Explanation Of Stand in Illinois State Job Furore

By DAN SMYTH
Chicago Correspondent for AFL News Service

Chicago.—The Chicago Daily News, which has earned a large body of useful information in a study of payrolls during the administration of Gov. Dwight H. Green, came up with relatively sensational report that some AFL union leaders also held state jobs.

It was brought out that the union officers delivered service for their money, however. This contrasted with an expose by the same paper of Illinois newspapermen on state payrolls who did little or nothing to earn the governor a favorable press coverage.

The Daily News story listed 16 AFL union leaders who draw state pay ranging from $1,000 to $11,196 during Gov. Green's 4-year term from 1941 through 1948. The list included a mason foreman, a lineman on state buildings who also was a business agent for the Building Trades in Ill., bricklayers' local, and John H. Fahrenkamp, secretary of the Illinois State Federation of Labor, who left the federation office just before he took a state job.

Fahrenkamp's name on the list was Farl J. McMahon, secretary of the Chicago Building Trades Council, who was employed by the state labor department. He left to do the same work before he became secretary-treasurer of the Illinois State Federation of Labor, which office he now holds.

"When Ill.'s wages crashed back after the war, the state department labor approached me to help find steady employment for some who had picked up a smattering of knowledge of various trades while in the service," McMahon explained.

He was paid a monthly salary to advise those veterans and change them into crafts where they could obtain maximum use of the knowledge they had acquired. I would have to view my income tax returns to find what my state pay was, because I don't remember exactly. But it was legitimate employment, and I earned it."

The Daily News listed him as having received $4,737. More than half the labor department carried him on the payroll as a "clerk" and as a "field investigator," but he was not listed as a "clerk" in the classification used.

Also mentioned in the Daily News story, though not a union official, was Paul Sorgenfrei, an attorney, who is the son of Reuben Soderstrom, president of the Illinois State Federation of Labor. He was listed as having received $11,196 as a labor conciliator.

"My son is a practicing lawyer of Chicago," Soderstrom said, "active in politics for years," said Reuben Soderstrom. "He has never had any employment on his own and held it only a few months at $100 a month."

"Not a single officer of the State Federation of Labor was ever on the state payroll. The constitution of the state federation does not permit it. If an officer of the federation enters the state service he must resign from his position with the federation."

A writer in the editorial column of the Daily News pointed out recently that the task of the International Labor Conference was to be held in Geneva, Switzerland, with the government as Secretary of the Conference.

ELLIOTT, ONCE IATSE HEAD, DIES OF HEART AILMENT

New York.—William C. Elliott, former president of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employes and Moving Picture Machine Operators, died suddenly of a heart attack at his home in Cincinnati, O.

Federal Housing Bill Cleared For Vote; House Rules Committee Reverses Stand

Sharp Fight Expected; 4 Other Changes Are Voted

Washington.—The House Rules Committee did a complete "flip-flop" and voted 8 to 4, to report the federal housing bill to the floor for debate and a final vote.

Under steady pressure from the House financial leadership the committee reversed its previous 7-5 vote against clearance for the bill.

It was the committee's original action which caused a resolution to be introduced in the House forcing the discharge of the bill from its committee pigeonhole. The vote on this resolution will be sent for June 27. Earlier action is expected now in view of the committee's new move in granting a rule which will permit 8 hours of general debate and provide for amendments from the floor.

It is expected that a hard battle will ensue when the House considers the measure. Vigorous opposition will be offered by the powerful Republican-Dixiecrat coalition which engineered the original unfavorable action. The Republican platform has been a stumbling block in the path of the Truman Fair-Deal program.

The proposed legislation, which has been approved by the Senate in slightly modified form, calls for the construction of 810,000 units in the low-rent housing over a 7-year period, and for a vast slum clearance program. Its backers say that the cost to the government will range from $10,000,000,000 over the next 40 years.

Clearance of the bill by the committee was made possible by switches in votes on the part of Representatives E. Ed. Cox of Georgia, William M. Colmar of Mississippi, both Democrats, and Christian A. Herter, Republican, of Massachusetts.

Others voting to clear the bill were: Adolph J. Sabath of Illinois, the committee chairman; Ray J. Madden of Indiana, John E. Lyle, Jr., of Texas, John McSweeney of Ohio and James J. Delaney of New York, all Democrats. Howard W. Smith, Democrat, of Virginia, voted in opposition with the other Republicans on the committee, Leo E. Allen of Illinois, Clarence J. Brown of Ohio and James W. Wadsworth of New York.

Representative Cox made it very plain that his vote to clear the bill was not to be taken as indicating approval of the measure which, he said, was "one of the most dangerous legislative proposals in my memory."

He echoed the familiar refrain of the opponents of action by the federal government in the housing field when he said:

"The bill takes home building out of the field of private enterprise, and its adoption will fasten permanent domination and political control over construction. It leaves no assurance that complete statism soon will follow. We are doing that which Russia so much desires. We are bankrupting our country. We know better. I know we know better. But for some reason we do not have the courage and strength of character to show it."

Senate in Critical Debate On 'Emergency' Strike Issue

Washington.—The Senate debate on the repeal of the Taft-Hartley law moved into a critical stage here as labor mustered its full political strength to resist efforts to include the injunction process in procedures for the settlement of national emergency disputes.

The reactionary, union-busting bill, led by Senator Robert A. Taft, proposed an amendment to the Thomas bill which would not only retain the Taft-Hartley law's authority for the government to put down strikes by injunctions, but would add to this the power of seizure of a plant or facility.

The American Federation of Labor has stated that under no circumstances should it support any provision which contained authority for the strike-breaking injunction technique. The AFL Executive Council revealed, however, that it would reluctantly go along with a provision calling for the seizure for 30 days of public involved in labor disputes which threaten to bring about a national emergency.

The Thomas bill, as approved by the Senate Labor Committee, provides for setting a strike, was an amendment sponsored by a bipartisan group of Senators including Paul Douglas of Illinois and George D. Aiken of Vermont. It provides for a third possible solution to the issue of emergency strikes, without resort to the use of injunctions.

Drawn into the debate as a third possible solution to the issue of emergency strikes, was an amendment sponsored by a bipartisan group of Senators including Paul Douglas of Illinois and George D. Aiken of Vermont. The proposal would grant seizure power to the President but would not refer to compulsory power.

On floor discussion, Mr. Douglas contended that there would be an implication, in ultimate exercise of Presidential power to seek injunctions under this plan but only where a struck plant was under government seizure and government operation and only if and when the men resisted all appeals to go on working.

He and Senator Aiken declared that the purpose was to put the use of force as far into the background as could possibly be done, and to rely primarily on the belief that men would be very reluctant to strike against the government."

Earlier, Ida Sterne, by a voice vote in each instance, adopted 4 relatively non-controversial amendments to the Thomas bill, all of which had been accepted in principle by the AFL and other labor organizations. The amendments said:

1. Make it illegal for a union to refuse to bargain in good faith, for administration bill already contained a requirement that employers must bargain. The amendment had the effect of making the same duty on both sides.

2. Guarantee freedom of speech in labor relations unless the speech in question contains a threat or promise of benefit.

3. Require both unions and companies, if they want to take cases before the National Labor Relations Board, to file annual financial reports.

4. Require the Federal Mediation department officials to file affidavits with the National Labor Relations Board disavowing Communism and Fascism, unless by-laws of their organizations barred their officers from membership in totalitarian groups.

AFL UNIONS SUPPORTING COOPERATIVE FILM PROJECT

New York.—AFL unions have joined a cooperative film project to stimulate production of new documentary motion pictures and to increase the use of current public service and labor films, Robert Lasch, the acting chairman of the National Film Cooperative announced in a report to the cooperative's organizing committee.

The National Film Cooperative will represent the needed artists and funds of labor and liberal organizations. It will act as a distributing agency and film library, will purchase equipment, such as motion picture and film strip projectors and screens, and will stimulate production of new films of current social problems.

It is expected that more than half of the funds necessary for active operation will be raised locally with $12,500 received from the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union, AFL; Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen's Union, CIO; Textile Workers Union, CIO; Hotel and Restaurant Workers' Union, Local 6; Committee; Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith; Congress of Industrial Organizations and the United Hatters, Cap and Millinery Workers Union, AFL.

Payments to N.Y. Jobless At Highest Peak Since '38

By ARNOLD BEICHMAN
New York Correspondent for AFL News Service

New York.—Unemployment has hit New York State with a thud—and there isn't a prophet around who dares say when it will get better.

(It was Wednesday President Truman denied that the unemployment situation amounted to a national crisis. He declared that the administration viewpoint on the problem would be completely explained in his mid-year economic message to Congress next month.)

Figures released by the State Department of Labor on the number of unemployment insurance claimants:

	State	N. Y. City
June 10, 1948	345,098	208,840
June 3, 1949	470,265	275,765
June 10, 1949	535,575	306,358

The June 10 figure of unemployment compensation recipients for New York State is an all-time high since the system was established in 1938.

There's more unhappy is the fact that the department's statisticians concede that the June 10 figure, a tentative one, is an understatement; that the final unemployment may be even higher and that it will be when more accurate figures are made public in a few weeks.

Labor Department officials are saying that they have become a critical factor early next fall" and that "there's no getting around it." Unemployment figures have been disappointing so far this year. The authoritative industry magazine points out that although the May figure of unemployment was 58,634,000, is 34,000 above a year ago, there are 1,500,000 more people job-hunting than there were a year ago. That's why last May the number of jobless nationally was 3,300,000 compared to 1,800,000 in May, 1948.

Of concern to New York labor people is that the expected pickup in the construction field in the metropolitan area hasn't showed. The season of the year building should be extensive but, according to State Labor Department officials, there are more workers on the city's hunting files of skilled construction workers than ever before. Other industries in the city where unemployment is much higher than ever are apparel (men, women and children) and entertainment, underwear and millinery.

Others which have reported marked declines include carpet and rug factories, shoe concerns, photographic and optical goods plants, manufacturers of radio and electrical apparatus. In the latter field, Radio Corp., for example, the big Eastman Kodak plant is not working a full week while the Remington Rand plant has shut down its laundry machinery for two weeks.

What's the outlook now? A shrug of the shoulders is the best response obtainable from the experts.

AFL Metal Trades Unions Push Drive For Ship Rehabilitation Work in West

Washington.—Spokesmen for AFL unions stepped up their drive to obtain more work for the thousands of unemployed shipbuilding workers on the West Coast.

A plea for action was placed before the Maritime Commission by Secretary-Treasurer James Brownlow of the Metal Trades Department, and Edward F. Hawes and Maywood Berger, representing the Boilermakers Union.

In a conference with the commission, they cited the plight of ship yard employes and urged that quick steps be taken to carry through a program, now under government consideration, to rehabilitate 100 maritime vessels now anchored in "mothball" reserve fleets.

Among those are 33 in Pacific Coast ports, plus two others in San Francisco Bay—the Mariposa and Monterey—on which reconversion had been completed, but held up. To put them in operating shape, the labor leaders said, would give small Southern, national defense against any emergency that might arise.

Commission members assured the delegation that the matter is being pushed as hard as we can." Defense Secretary, they said, are strongly behind the reconversion program, and the Budget Bureau is being urged to step up the funds.

Should the commission clear the way for rehabilitating these vessels, that would mean the immediate employment, it's a gap until Congress acts on a pending proposal for a long range program for construction of new ships, fairly allocated among all the coasts.

PAYMENTS TO JOBLESS RISE

Trenton, N. J.—New Jersey unemployment and disability insurance payment increased $621,674 in May over April, when $7,477,219 was paid out, the State Division of Employment Security announced. The May total of $8,098,893 represents $7,742,- 822 in unemployment payments and $355,566 in disability benefits.

STARR HEADS U. S. DELEGATION

Washington.—Mark Starr of New York, educational director of the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union, AFL, will head the United States delegation to the Conference on Adult Education at Elsinore, Denmark, the State Department announced.

WRIGHT ASSAILS CHARGES ABOUT 'TOO BIG' UNIONS

Trinidad, Colo.—"Propaganda about too powerful labor unions" which was riddled here by Assistant Secretary of Labor Ralph Wright in an address to the Colorado State Federation of Labor.

"You frequently hear comments about big, strong and rich unions," he said. "But you seldom hear anyone mention that 40 percent of all industrial workers in the United States are employed by only 1/10 of 1 percent of all the employers.

"It would be well for those who oppose labor unions to remember these facts."